



COON RAPIDS *Connection*

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Ideas for Sustainable Living

Saturday, April 23

9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

National Sports Center

1700-105th Ave. NE, Blaine, MN 55449

More information:

www.MNGreenExpo.org

The Green Expo: Sustainability at Your Fingertips

Are you passionate about reducing the amount of waste you produce? Do you want to be more eco-friendly? If you answered yes to these questions and have a desire to learn more about sustainability, then the Green Expo is the perfect FREE event for you! Learn about sustainable living options from experts in their field.

Enjoy booths, displays and activities from local and regional sustainability-focused businesses. Explore holistic healing options with herbs, essential oils and other natural remedies. Hands-on activities are available for kids and the "Gear Grab" features new-to-you gear for the upcoming sports season. For more information about the Green Expo call 763-767-6485 or email csinclair@coonrapidsmn.gov

EVENT VENDORS LISTED ON PAGE 10

Gear Grab!

We want your used sports gear! Give your gear a second life.

The 2016 Green Expo will be accepting donations of gently used, clean sports equipment, in good working condition. Re-using equipment is the best way of recycling it. If you have equipment you no longer use and want to get rid of, donate it. If you need some new-to-you equipment, come check out the selection and take anything that works for you. You do not need to donate anything to participate in the Gear Grab.

This invitation is open to all sports teams and families.

**SEE THE COMPLETE LIST OF
ACCEPTED GEAR ON PAGE 10**

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Hanson Boulevard Railroad Crossing Improvements

Anoka County is continuing to make progress towards the construction of the Hanson Boulevard BNSF Railroad Grade separation. The County has selected SRF Consulting Group to lead the preliminary and final design for the project. At this time, the County has started the right-of-way process and will continue coordination with property

owners as the design process moves forward. Half of the project funding has been secured through the Counties Transit Improvement Board, Anoka County, The City of Coon Rapids and Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway. If the remaining project cost (\$12.6 Million) is secured during this year's legislative session, construction would start in 2017.

Public informational meetings about the project started in March. Residents in the surrounding area of the Hanson Boulevard crossing received a postcard invitation to attend and learn more about the project. Plans call for an overpass to be built over the crossing, which will secure a reliable route for emergency

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Potential Port Riverwalk Housing Development

The City Council has directed City staff to begin negotiating a development proposal with The Beard Group and Centra Homes for the City-owned land on the south side of Coon Rapids Boulevard generally between Egret

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Mayor's Corner

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER

Spring! Coon Rapids Athletic Association is transitioning from basketball to Lacrosse and Softball, and the Coon Rapids Little League organizations are through evaluations and looking to build their teams for summer. Coon Rapids is truly the city for all seasons and all sports!

This year, and likely next year, Coon Rapids will also be the city for CONSTRUCTION! We are aggressively going after our Minnesota State Aid roads, with nearly 10 miles of reconstruction. Additionally, we have support from the state and county, and look forward to getting the financing locked in for a new bridge over the railroad tracks on Hanson Boulevard. The last piece of the funding puzzle is for the legislature to approve approximately half of the project cost during the current legislative session. We are optimistic this will happen. This one bridge will go a long way to keeping traffic moving, and more importantly, our public safety crews moving. When you need police, fire, or an ambulance, you do not want them stuck behind a train; this new overpass will allow responders to get where they are needed.

An exciting development (literally) is we have had multiple proposals to consider for Port Riverwalk (the old Coon Rapids shopping center area, near Avocet Street and Coon Rapids Boulevard). After an aggressive period of marketing to many different developers, City staff have begun negotiating a development proposal with The Beard Group and Centra Homes. The potential project will likely include market rate

apartments, for-sale detached townhouses and additional land reserved for retail. The apartments would be amenity-rich and more contemporary and different from other apartment offerings in the city.

For the second year, the Fourth of July celebration will be hosted at Boulevard Park, located adjacent to the Coon Rapids Ice Center, at 11000 Crooked Lake Boulevard. Last year was truly an amazing celebration; the fireworks were some of the best in the region, and the crowd was estimated to be 10,000 higher than any previous year. The new parade route along Mississippi Boulevard, Direct River Drive and Flora Street was well-received, and this year there will be a few "tweaks" to make it even better. Watch for complete details in the summer Coon Rapids Connection City newsletter.

We are planning four neighborhood meetings in the park this summer (read the dates and locations in this newsletter). The meetings are always well attended and serve as a marvelous opportunity to interact with staff and elected officials. We hope you come out and learn what is going on around town, as well as get your questions answered.

You could live anywhere – THANK YOU for living in Coon Rapids!

Mayor Jerry Koch

2016 COON RAPIDS CITY COUNCIL



Mayor

Jerry Koch

763-767-1811

jkoch@coonrapidsmn.gov

COUNCILMEMBERS



Ward 1

Denise Klint

763-576-8488

dklint@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 2

Ron Manning

763-755-9128

rmanning@coonrapidsmn.gov



Ward 3

Wade Demmer

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Ward 4

Jennifer Geisler

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Ward 5

Brad Johnson

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brj@coonrapidsmn.gov



At Large

Steve Wells

763-323-4984

swells@coonrapidsmn.gov

Wonder who represents you?

Find your address on the Ward and Precinct Map online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/220/Ward-Map. Then match your ward number with the councilmember that represents that ward.

City Meetings CALENDAR

(All meetings held at the Coon Rapids City Center unless otherwise noted)

City Council Meetings

April 5, 19, May 3, 17, June 7, 21 • 7 p.m.

Arts Commission

April 19, May 17, June 21 • 6 p.m.

Board of Adjustment and Appeals

April 7, May 5, June 2 • 6:30 p.m.

Historical Commission

April 21, May 19, June 16 • 7:30 p.m.

Parks and Recreation Commission

April 11, May 9, June 13 • 6:30 p.m.

Planning Commission

April 21, May 19, June 16 • 6:30 p.m.

Safety Commission

May 12 • 7:15 p.m.

Sustainability Commission

April 21, May 19, June 16 • 6:30 p.m.

City offices will be closed:

May 30 (Memorial Day)

Schedule subject to change. Contact the staff liaison at 763-755-2880 to confirm.

Public notices are published in the City's official newspaper, The Anoka County UnionHerald, and on the website: www.coonrapidsmn.gov



Download the NEW City of Coon Rapids APP

It's an easy way to access City of Coon Rapids information all in one place! Download the City of Coon Rapids app, available for iPhone and Android devices. Find news and information, event calendars, report city maintenance issues and more with this easy tool! You can also set the app to allow push notifications for emergency alerts and other information. Search Coon Rapids, MN in the Google Play or Apple App store.

2016 Kids Safety Camp

The Coon Rapids Fire and Police departments are teaming up to teach kids a variety of skills that will help them stay safe. Safety camp is a chance for Coon Rapids students entering 4th and 5th grades in the fall of



2016 to learn important safety skills including: water, fire and electrical safety, basic first aid and how to use 911. A graduation ceremony will take place on July 20.

Dates: July 19 and 20, 2016

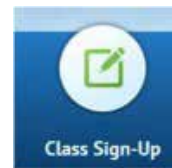
Time: 8:30 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center,
11000 Crooked Lake Blvd.

Class fee: \$40 registration fee* (fee covers supplies, a t-shirt, snacks, lunch, and transportation to and from the swimming pool).

*Scholarships are available to children using the free and reduced lunch program. Call 763-767-6429 for more information about scholarships

To register: visit the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov, then visit Parks & Recreation, then Class Sign ups. Online registration and credit card payment is available this year.



Coon Rapids Rabies Vaccination Clinic

**Saturday, May 7
1-3 p.m.**

The City of Coon Rapids is sponsoring the annual rabies vaccination clinic to facilitate compliance with ordinances regarding dog licenses, cat registrations and rabies vaccinations.

Locations:

- Fire Station #1, 1460 Egret Boulevard (services provided by Foley Blvd. Animal Hospital)
- Fire Station #2, 1199 – 121st Avenue NW (services provided by Foley Blvd. Animal Hospital)
- Fire Station #3, 2831 – 113th Avenue NW (services provided by Coon Rapids Pet Hospital)

Fees:

- Rabies vaccination: \$11.00
- Dog license* (2016): \$10.00
- Cat registration: no charge

*City code now requires dogs to be licensed every year rather than every two years

Cash or check only.

Other vaccinations (e.g. Distemper, Lyme, Bordetella, etc.) are available at an additional cost. Call the vet offices to find out more about pricing.

Foley Blvd. Animal Hospital: 763-755-3595

Coon Rapids Pet Hospital: 763-755-2570

Cat ID tags must be provided by the owner. Dogs must maintain current rabies vaccinations.

All animals must be leashed at the clinic.

If you have any questions, call the City Clerk's office at 763-767-6432 or email clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov.



Community Gardens

121st Ave NW & Xeon St.

The City offers garden plots for residents of Coon Rapids. Plots will be available for planting May 1 and have water accessibility from May 1 to October 15.

Large Plot (20'x75') = \$55

Medium Plot (25'x35') = \$40

Small Plot (10'x15') = \$25

For more information or to reserve your garden plot call 763-767-6513 or email rgunderson@coonrapidsmn.gov.

2016 Arbor Day Tree Sale

Celebrate Arbor Day with new, beautiful trees for your yard!

As part of the City's 2016 Tree Sale, a wide variety of apple trees, plum trees and shade trees will be available for purchase. Tree varieties available include: Black Cherry, Quaking Aspen, Autumn Blaze Maple, Skyline Honeylocust, Accolade Elm, American Sentry Linden, Cortland Apple, McIntosh Apple, Black Ice Plum, and Toka Plum.

The trees will be sold in bare root* form ranging from six to eight feet in height. The cost varies, between \$20 and \$35, depending on the species of tree. Payment can be made on the day of tree pick-up. Cash or check only. Limit four trees per household

Trees must be pre-ordered with the City Forester by **Wednesday, April 27.**

Call 763-767-6455 to place your order.

The trees will be available for pick up **Friday, May 6, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.** at the Public Works Garage, 1831-111th Ave NW. If you are not able to pick up your trees at this time, you may have a neighbor or friend pick them up for you. For more information please visit the City of Coon Rapids website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

No refunds/replacements for trees that fail.

*Bare root trees must be planted the same day they are picked up. Contact Gopher State One Call at 651-454-0002 at least two working days in advance to have underground utility lines located and marked. The City does not assume responsibility for the successful transplanting of trees.



Public Works Open House Event

**Saturday, May 14 • 10 a.m. - noon
1831 – 111th Ave. NW**

Take a tour of the Public Works facility and check out snowplows, tractors and other "big rigs."

Learn about the Recycling Center and other services.

Free event! Perfect for the kids!

Questions? Call 763-767-6462.

Summer in the City Neighborhood Meetings

Plan to come out for one of this year's "Summer in the City" neighborhood meetings! Councilmembers and City staff invite you to one of the upcoming events at a park near you. This annual series is a great opportunity to meet your councilmembers and talk with City staff about projects going on in your neighborhood and throughout the city.

Event Schedule:

Tuesday, June 14	Thorpe Park 2691 Carlson Drive
Tuesday, July 12	Sunrise Pond Park 125 124th Lane
Tuesday, July 26	Vineyards Park 11947 Vintage Street
Tuesday, August 23	Kennedy Park 8490 East River Road

The events run from 6:30 - 8 p.m. Presentation at 7 p.m. Fire trucks, police cars, public works equipment and other displays from various City departments will also be at the events.



Save the Dates

2016 4th of July Community Celebration

July 2 - 4, 2016

On the grounds of the Coon Rapids Ice Center,
11000 Crooked Lake Boulevard

Events include:

Parade, carnival games, rides, live music, bingo, car show (Sunday), food and drinks, fireworks and a new "Firecracker 5K Run/Walk."

This event is sponsored by the North Star Lions Club, Coon Rapids Fire Social Group and the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation. More detailed information will be in the summer Coon Rapids Connection City newsletter.

Learn About Ramblers Built by Orrin Thompson

Wednesday, May 4 • 7 p.m.
Coon Rapids City Council Chambers
Free presentation

Orrin Thompson built about 25 percent of the homes in Coon Rapids starting in the 1950s. Why have they stood the test of time so well and why do people seem to like them more every year? The City's Historical Commission started documenting the benefits of Orrin Thompson ramblers about a decade ago. Learn about the quality of the materials used, workmanship and how to best take care of them. Presentation by Ned Storla, Coon Rapids' Staff Liaison to the City's Historical Commission and Greg Brady, Chief Building Official.



Orrin Thompson built more than 25,000 homes in the Twin Cities over the years, many of them in Coon Rapids.

2016 Quintile Review

State law requires tax assessors to physically visit each property within their jurisdiction once every five years. This review of properties is called the "Quintile Review."

There are approximately 21,000 residential properties in Coon Rapids. During each quintile review period, the staff of the Coon Rapids Assessing Department visits and reviews approximately one fifth of the properties (about 4,200).

The 2016 residential quintile review area is highlighted on the map to the right.

City staff will be working in the designated areas from March through September.

The current Quintile Review is part of the process to determine January 2, 2017 property values, which are the values that will be used to allocate property taxes payable in 2018.

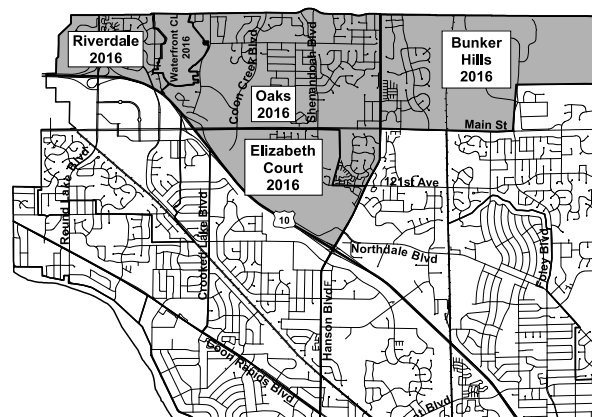
If your home is in the review area this year, here's what you can expect:

- Single-family homes will receive a blue postcard approximately 1-3 weeks prior to the visit to let you know assessing staff will be working in your neighborhood soon.
- City staff may or may not ask to conduct an interior inspection of your home. The decision is based on whether or not the information on file seems up to date or accurate. If an interior inspection is needed, the staff person will typically be inside your home for 5-10 minutes and they will also walk around the outside of your home. If an interior inspection is not needed, the staff member will only need to view the outside of your home and verify the exterior characteristics so

they will most likely walk around your property.

- City staff reviews characteristics of the property that affect market value such as age, size, quality of construction, basement finish, etc.
- If you are not home when the staff person visits, a blue door hanger with instructions will be left at your door. If the instructions indicate an interior inspection is needed, please call the Assessing Department as soon as possible to set up a time for the staff member to come back. You may also schedule an appointment by visiting our website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov/169/Assessing and clicking on "Schedule an Appointment" on the left side of the page.
- City staff will be wearing an official City of Coon Rapids identification badge to identify themselves.

In addition to the Quintile Review areas, City staff visit and update information related to construction, remodeling projects and demolition work throughout the city.



THANK YOU in advance for your cooperation during this year's assessment review. If you have any questions, you may contact the Assessing Department at 763-767-6446 or visit the City website at <http://www.coonrapidsmn.gov/169/Assessing>.

By now you should have received your 2016 tax statement from Anoka County. Feel free to call, email us (mail@coonrapidsmn.gov) or stop in to City Hall if you have questions.

Property Value Information Meeting

Wednesday, April 20, 2016 • 7 p.m.

Coon Rapids City Center
(City Council Chambers) • 11155 Robinson Drive

The Assessing Department will host an informational meeting to discuss the valuation process. Topics include:

- Estimated market values and how the values are determined
- The assessing cycle/sales comparable timeline
- The assessment review area
- How value is related to property taxes
- Recent residential housing trends

This meeting is NOT meant to appeal individual values but to discuss how the valuation process works.

Wasp Watchers Wanted!

Love trees? Want to help save them from invasive pests? Become a Wasp Watcher! The Wasp Watchers Program through University of Minnesota Extension is a citizen science project that engages volunteers in the bio surveillance of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB). Currently, Emerald Ash Borer has not been found in Coon Rapids. However, EAB has been found in Anoka County (Ham Lake) and nearby Hennepin County (Plymouth, Minneapolis). Currently 11 Minnesota counties are under ash quarantine to slow the spread of EAB. The Wasp Watchers Program provides opportunities for volunteers to be involved in the early detection of EAB in your community.

With the help of a harmless ground-nesting wasp (*Cerceris fumipennis*) that hunts wood-boring beetles like EAB, we can monitor for the presence of these destructive invasive beetles. The female *Cerceris* wasps hunt for beetles in the trees and bring their prey back to their nest holes in the ground to feed to their offspring. An observer can easily watch a wasp colony and collect their beetle prey to check for EAB presence. We need volunteers to search for new *Cerceris* sites in your area, and once sites are found, monitor those sites to collect wood boring beetles (the wasps prey).

Searching for *Cerceris* nesting sites is easy and takes little time. Ideal habitats for the *Cerceris* wasp is sandy, compact soil so we are focusing on baseball and softball fields.

After searching a ballfield for *Cerceris* presence, you will visit our Wasp Watchers website to enter the data. Volunteering is fun and makes a great difference for our wonderful Minnesota trees.

For more information, please visit the Wasp Watcher website <http://z.umn.edu/waspwatchers> or www.cerceris.info.

Contact Wasp Watchers Program Coordinator, Jennifer Schultz, with questions at 612-301-8310 or schultzj@umn.edu.



Photo from Wikipedia Commons

Report It!



Use the NEW Coon Rapids Report It system to report street lights out, park problems or other issues in need of repair. Find the program online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov or through our NEW Coon Rapids mobile app.



*Please note: The City no longer monitors SeeClickFix, the program formerly used to report maintenance issues.

Grant Money Sought for Northdale Boulevard Improvements

The City of Coon Rapids, Anoka County and the Anoka-Hennepin School District have joined forces to submit a "Safe Routes to Schools" infrastructure grant application to the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

The grant money, if received, would pay for safety improvements to Northdale Boulevard and parking lot enhancements in front of Coon Rapids High School.

The proposed safety improvements include a relocated pedestrian crossing,

flashing signals, installation of medians on portions of Northdale Boulevard, relocated parking lot access, reconfigured parking lots and additional lighting.

The application was submitted in January. The City will be notified later this year if the grant money is awarded, which will pay for more than half of the project cost. The remaining cost would be paid for by the City, County and school district. If the project moves forward, construction would begin in 2017.



The pedestrian crossing in front of Coon Rapids High school could see changes in 2017 if grant money is received from the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Park Bond Project Updates

Sand Creek Park- 1008 Northdale Boulevard

Road work will begin in the coming months to relocate the entrance to Sand Creek Park to Redwood Street and Northdale Boulevard. Northdale Boulevard will be upgraded to include turn lanes and a traffic signal at the intersection of Redwood and Northdale to allow for improved pedestrian safety and traffic flow in and out of the park. Please drive slowly in this area once construction begins.

The concessions/restroom building will also be constructed in the coming months. Installation of playground equipment, the skate park and other finishing touches will also occur later this year and the park is expected to be open for use in the spring of 2017.

Roads, trails and parking lot paving is complete at the park, and the athletic turf is planted. Complete reconstruction of the park brings the facility up to modern athletic field standards. The improvements include re-arranged parking and fields, new football/lacrosse fields, enhanced trails with connections to surrounding neighborhoods, a hockey rink with open skate areas and energy efficient lighting. Funding for the Sand Creek Park improvements was possible thanks to a Park Bond approved by voters in 2013.

Riverview Park - 2420 105th Avenue

Renovation at Riverview Park is complete and the ball fields are ready for use. The new amenities include playground equipment, a warming house, picnic shelter, tennis court, half-court basketball, skate park and expanded parking areas. New trails are complete and most turf areas are newly seeded. The renovation of Riverview Park was possible thanks to a Park Bond approved by voters in 2013.

2016 Park Renovation Projects

Pheasant Ridge Park (11845 Pheasant Ridge Drive) will be renovated in 2016 to include new playground equipment, half-court basketball and two new interpretive areas which will overlook the wetlands.

Mason Park (9600 Holly Circle) will receive a new playground with picnic shelter, new basketball court, new half-mile walking trail around the park and new landscaping.

Delta Park (11151 Yukon Street) will be renovated to include a new playground with picnic shelter, half-court basketball and the ball field will be re-positioned. The hockey rink will also be removed from this park.

At **Woodcrest Park** (901 103rd Avenue), crews will build a new restroom facility, half-court basketball, small picnic shelter, and new walking trails along the perimeter of the park which will tie into a new 21 hole disc golf course. The ball field will also be re-positioned for better use. The new disc golf course is a partnership between the City and the Minnesota Disc Golf Association. Volunteers are working to build the course, which may take up to two years to complete.

Woodview Park (11540 Olive Street) will have a new playground, benches, grills and picnic shelter. Decorative pillars will be added to the existing picnic shelter. A shelter for portable restrooms will also be built and maintenance work will be completed on the existing walking trails.

If you use these parks, please know they will be under construction this summer and possibly part of the fall, depending on the construction schedule. Thanks for your patience as contractors work to add amenities to the parks. The funding for all of the park improvements listed above is also from the voter approved Park Bond.

Trail Project Updates

Construction of the **85th Avenue Trail** will take place later this year. The trail will connect Springbrook Nature Center with Kennedy Park. Users will be able to navigate through the surrounding neighborhoods to reach the trails into Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park. The City has been trying to receive grant money to help pay for this project, but grants have not come through. The project will be paid for with Park Bond dollars.

Other Trail Improvements

A narrow pedestrian bridge will be replaced in **Erlandson Park** (1105 Egret Boulevard) with a new, 10-foot wide bridge. The new bridge will allow easier access for maintenance vehicles and will provide more room for people who use the trail.



New playground equipment will be installed at Delta Park in 2016.

CenturyLink Franchise Agreement

The Coon Rapids City Council approved CenturyLink as a second provider of cable television in November and since then residents in certain areas of the city have been able to receive PRISM TV service. Availability of this service depends on the internet speeds in your neighborhood area. Check with CenturyLink for more information.

Many residents have asked if CTN- the Coon Rapids Community Television Network is available on CenturyLink PRISM TV service. The answer is yes. The local CTN channels will be available starting April 19 on CenturyLink mosaic channel 20. Contractors have been installing the fiber conduit from CenturyLink's main lines to the CTN cable building, which will allow the local programming to appear on the PRISM TV service. CTN-Coon Rapids Community Television Network features news, sports, events, local government meetings and other programming in the Coon Rapids area.

CTN community television programming is only on the PRISM TV service. CenturyLink also offers service packages that feature DIRECTV service, however, DIRECTV does not carry the CTN local channels.

For more information about CenturyLink's PRISM TV services, visit www.centurylink.com/prismtv.

Xfinity (Comcast) is also a cable television provider in the city of Coon Rapids and carries CTN local government and community programming. Xfinity service descriptions can be found at www.xfinity.com.



Civic Center Available for Rent

Looking for a great place to host your next family reunion, sports banquet or graduation party? The Coon Rapids Civic Center is the perfect location! Located within City Hall, the Civic Center can hold up to 230 guests. Kitchen facilities are also available for rent and you can choose your own caterer (they must be licensed through the State of Minnesota) or self-cater. For more information, call 763-767-6522 or visit www.coonrapidsciviccenter.com.



Cable Box Troubles?

Do you watch CTN local programming on Xfinity (Comcast), but notice the sides of the picture are getting cut off? If so, it could be a problem with your cable box and/or digital converter (DTA). Some of the older cable boxes and digital converters cut off the sides of the City's community channels (channel 14, 15 and 16). City programming is optimized for widescreen televisions, but unfortunately if you have an older cable box, it could be utilizing older technology which is creating the problem with the picture. Cable boxes and/or DTAs can be swapped out at any Xfinity (Comcast) store. The closest store is located at 9660 Colorado Lane, Brooklyn Park MN 55445. Call Xfinity (Comcast) at 651-222-3333 with questions.



2016 Election Information

Coon Rapids voters will have many choices to make this year for the 2016 election. Several elected positions will be on the ballot including four Coon Rapids City Council seats in Ward 1, 2, 4 and the At Large seat. If you are interested in running for the City Council, candidate filings begin May 17. The last day to file is May 31 and the last day to withdraw from the ballot is June 2. To file for candidacy, you must be a resident in the ward you want to represent and pay a \$10 filing fee.

A Primary Election will take place on August 9. Polling locations will be open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. To find out where to vote, visit www.coonrapidsmn.gov/511/Where-To-Vote and look up the polling locations map or the State of Minnesota Precinct Finder. If you are not able to make it to the polls on Primary Election Day, you can vote by absentee. Absentee voting by mail or in person at Coon Rapids City Hall begins June 25. Absentee voting takes place during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

The Primary Election will determine which candidates are the final choices on the November ballot. Election Day is Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

If you have questions about candidate filings for the Coon Rapids City Council, contact the City Clerk's office at clerk@coonrapidsmn.gov or 763-767-6493.

Heart Safe Coon Rapids Program Heads to Europe

Coon Rapids Police Officer Bryan Platz, who helped establish Heart Safe Coon Rapids, travelled to England in March to help launch a heart safe program overseas.

"He's sought after, somebody from England saw him speak and invited him, so they are paying for him to go over to England and he's starting a Heart Safe program

in Worcester," says Coon Rapids Police Chief Brad Wise.

In Worcester, Platz trained city employees and business leaders. The ultimate goal of the Heart Safe Coon Rapids program is to prevent deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest. To date, over 10,000 people in the city of Coon Rapids have been trained in hands-only CPR and AED use. In Anoka County, 12 of the 22 communities have been designated Heart Safe or are working toward that goal.

If you would like more information about the Heart Safe Coon Rapids program, visit the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov or email heartsafe@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Officer Bryan Platz conducts Heart Safe training with employees at Titania, a cyber security company in England.



Planning for 2016 Street Reconstruction

The City Council has approved the 2016 Street Reconstruction plan which consists of reconstructing 7.5 miles of streets as part of an aggressive street maintenance program. These streets are all on the City's State Aid system, which means they are typically higher volume collector streets. These roads may cause more concerns or have more impacts than a standard residential street. The list of streets planned to be reconstructed in 2016 are as follows:

Project 16-1

- Evergreen Boulevard from 85th Avenue to cul-de-sac
- 90th Avenue from Evergreen Boulevard to Springbrook Drive
- 93rd Avenue from Evergreen Boulevard to Coon Rapids Boulevard

Project 16-2

- Mississippi Boulevard from Hanson Boulevard to Coon Rapids Boulevard

Project 16-3

- Crooked Lake Boulevard from 127th Circle to 133rd Avenue
- 128th Avenue from Crooked Lake Boulevard to Coon Creek Boulevard
- Mississippi Drive from Round Lake Boulevard to Pheasant Ridge Drive
- Round Lake Boulevard from Mississippi Drive to 115th Avenue

Project 16-4

- 113th Avenue from Foley Boulevard to Northdale Boulevard
- Dogwood Street from Northdale Boulevard to 115th Avenue
- 115th Avenue from Dogwood Street to University Avenue
- Egret Boulevard from Kumquat Street to University Avenue
- Xeon Street from 114th Avenue to Northdale Boulevard

Many of the roads listed above are anywhere from 24-47 years old. The City has 220 miles of streets in all. More than 100 miles of streets have been repaired since 1994 as part of the street reconstruction program. Additional information will be sent out this spring to property owners that reside or conduct business along these routes. Please contact the Engineering Department at 763-767-6479 if you have any immediate concerns or would like additional preliminary information.

To stay informed with weekly updates about these reconstruction projects, sign up for updates on the City's website. Go to www.coonrapidsmn.gov, look for Notify Me, then Street Reconstruction Updates.



Ditch Obstructions

Do you notice backed-up water, especially after rains or snowmelt? We need your "eyes" to help monitor the public drainage ditches.

Look for blockages of water flow or blocked culverts. It may simply be the result of an obstruction- trash, or leaves and sticks, for example. (Please keep storm drains clear to prevent backups, if you can safely clear these yourself).

Please call the Coon Creek Watershed District at 763-755-0975 or email us at info@cooncreekwd.org to report an obstruction in a creek or drainage ditch. Thank you!



Sanitary Sewer Lining Continues

As part of maintaining the underground sewer system, the City is continuing to line clay sewer pipes with epoxy resin. This process involves using high pressure hot water to cure the epoxy resin in place, which creates a new inner pipe within the existing clay pipe. The process is long-lasting and does not require the streets to be torn up which is a huge bonus! Nearly nine miles of pipe will be lined this year.

Clay pipe can cause problems because tree roots often grow into the pipe. These roots can grow large enough to stop water flow, which can sometimes lead to sewer backups.

Tree roots cannot grow into the epoxy resin lined pipes.

What to do if you have a sewer backup

Call the City: 763-767-6462

Crews will come out and see if there is a problem with the City's main line. Do this before you call your own service company. Also call the City if you are having your sewer line cleaned. This will help our crews be prepared for any tree roots or other debris that may clog the City's main lines.

Changes to FEMA Flood Plain Maps

Over the past couple of years the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has been updating their Flood Insurance Rate Maps to reflect updated flood data and modeling. The maps the City had been using were established in 1977. The maps are used to determine if a property is within a floodplain and if flood insurance is needed. The corresponding floodplain regulations control development within the floodplain. FEMA recently issued the new maps and the City was required to formally adopt the new maps and amend our floodplain management regulations so that they are consistent with the new federal regulations. The City Council adopted the new ordinance detailing these new regulations at the December 15, 2015 meeting.

What this means for you

As a homeowner, you may or may not be required to change your homeowner's insurance policy based upon the revisions on the new maps, which determine if homes are located in a floodplain. The changes affect about eight percent of properties in Coon Rapids. Check with your insurance provider for more details (or you may have already received a letter from your mortgage lender). The City worked with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Coon Creek Watershed District to revise the new floodplain regulations and draft the ordinance to be consistent with the new federal regulations. To see the new flood plain maps, visit <https://msc.fema.gov/portal>. To further understand and complete the process required by FEMA, you can contact the City's Engineering Division at 763-767-6479.

2016 Hydrant Flushing

Starting April 4, the City's utility crews will begin flushing more than 1600 fire hydrants in the city, generally south of Highway 10. The process is part of a routine maintenance program necessary to maintain the water system and remove sediment from the lines. This allows us to continue to deliver the highest quality water possible to our residents. If crews are working in your neighborhood, you may experience some water discoloration, but this does not affect the safety of the water. It's best to avoid doing laundry until the discoloration has disappeared. To see a map of the exact area, visit the City's website.

Street Sweeping and Repair

City crews will be out sweeping streets soon. Crews focus on main streets first, then neighborhoods. Please do not put grass or leaves in the street.

Also, please keep your garbage and recycling cans out of the street. Instead, place them on your driveway, behind the curb. *Thanks for your help!*

Crews are also out filling pot holes on City streets.

Your Help is Needed to Protect a Precious Resource

Water is a resource that is getting more and more regulation. Why? To protect it from more and more pollution and overuse so that we can continue to have drinkable, fishable, swimmable water.

The biggest source of water pollution? The water that runs off driveways, rooftops, streets, and sidewalks from snowmelt and rainstorms, stormwater. It flows down streets, usually into a stormdrain, disappearing from sight. Then it flows into our creeks, rivers and lakes. Often, it first flows to a stormwater pond to settle out ("treat") pollutants. In older neighborhoods it often flows directly to a creek/ditch carrying pollutants with it. The cheapest way to deal with pollution? Prevent it in the first place.

Preventing pollution saves tax dollars in cleanup, keeps our waters healthy for our kids and grandkids, and can be done with simple actions. How? To start, arm yourself with knowledge. We have articles, brochures, and online links to fun and interesting sites on the Coon Creek Watershed District page, www.cooncreekwd.org. Also, check the City "Stormwater Program" webpage in the Engineering area of the City's website.

Links from www.cooncreekwd.org:

- For elementary kids, go to the "EEK" website by the Wisconsin DNR (also a Spanish version)
- For Teens, try "Generation On" with service learning ideas and challenges
- Try the interactive "Trees Tame Stormwater" webpage at the Arbor Day Foundation

Remember, we all need to prevent water pollution.

- Keep your lawn clippings on your lawn, take them to a designated compost site, or keep them in a compost bin (not piled at the back of your property!).
- Keep a 5-50-foot strip of natural vegetation along any pond, creek, wetland, or ditch.
- Pick up the waste from our pets to help keep E.coli out of our waters.
- Make sure all of your fishing gear, boats, and bait are kept clean of Aquatic Invasive Species and not transferred to other waterbodies.
- Learn about local water issues by requesting a speaker to come to your organization from the Coon Creek Watershed District (call 763-755-0975 & ask for Dawn).

Need more ideas? Visit the Kids, Teachers and Families page in our online library at www.cooncreekwd.org. Have a website you like about water? Let us know!

This year, learn a new way to prevent pollution or conserve our precious resource, water. There's no better time than now.

Information provided by Coon Creek Watershed District, 763-755-0975 & ask for Dawn.

Exterior Storage What Does it Mean?

The City often receives questions regarding what types of items can be stored outside on private property in residential areas. Several items are not meant for outside storage according to City Code Chapter 11-601.10(2). Some of the items include: building materials, lumber, brush, household items, appliances, furniture, plastics, garbage, recyclables, scrap metal, paints, chemicals, debris, auto parts, inoperable lawn equipment, or similar materials, including all material and equipment used in conjunction with a business, including storage on an open trailer. If you have these types of items stored outside, you could receive a citation which includes a financial penalty.

The Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts several items for recycling (plastics, scrap metal, appliances for a fee) and the Household Hazardous Waste Facility in Blaine accepts paints and other chemicals for recycling (residential use only, no businesses). More information about these community resources can be found on the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

We all play a part in keeping our city looking its best. Call 763-767-6470 if you have questions. Thank you!

Please Clean Up After Your Dogs

Now that the snow has melted, please remember to clean up after your dogs. Not only is it unsightly and unhealthy to not clean up dog waste, it is also a violation of Coon Rapids City Code (Chapter 6-127). Remember to always pick up after your dog on any public property as well as private property, including your own yard. Please call the Neighborhood Reinvestment Division if you have questions at 763-767-6470.



Solicitors Need a License

With the weather getting warmer you're likely to see more people selling products and services at your door. Did you know these sales people must be licensed with the City? The licensing process includes a background investigation on each sales person and is designed to protect the safety and welfare of residents. All individuals traveling door-to-door selling products or soliciting for commercial business purposes, excluding newspaper and food delivery services, must be licensed by City Hall.

If the individual is licensed, they will be wearing a badge issued by the City which must be worn at all times. They must also carry an official City license. If a peddler or for-profit solicitor comes to your door and is not wearing a City-issued badge, please let us know by calling 763-767-6432. Soliciting hours are from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

If you encounter any issues or have problems with a peddler/solicitor, please contact the Coon Rapids Police Department by calling 911.

Grass Must Be Mowed

Soon our lawns will be growing and green once again. In order to help keep our city looking its best, City Code requires that all grass and weeds be no taller than 8" in height. Please don't forget to mow along both sides of your fence and along the boulevards. Even if you believe the City or County mows these areas or has in the past, it is important to know that ultimately this is your property and your responsibility to mow. If your grass is taller than 8", you will receive a citation and a fine if you don't mow your lawn within seven days of the citation.

If you would like to report a property that has not been mowed, please call 763-951-7200 or e-mail the complaint to weeds@coonrapidsmn.gov.



Helpful City Codes At-a-Glance

Codes are the standards developed by the City Council to keep Coon Rapids a safe and desirable place to live, but is often difficult to know all of the requirements. The codes which are most often misunderstood include:

1. **Grass** - No part of your yard (grass or weeds) can be any taller than 8" in height (City Code 8-500).

2. **Parking** - All vehicles, trailers, boats and other similar equipment must be parked on an improved surface (NOT on any part of the grass or class 5 rock) in the front or side yard (City Code 11-602 and 11-603). There are some off-street parking exceptions for properties located along the Mississippi River. They must also be operational (not taken apart, missing parts) and with current registration and tabs (City Code 11-601 and 12-306). For questions about installing a driveway or other parking areas, call Building Inspections at 763-767-6476.

3. **Garbage Service** - All homes are required to have garbage collection service (City Code 8-200).

4. **House Numbers** - Have you recently re-sided your home? All buildings must have address numbers installed so the fire and police departments can quickly locate your home in an emergency (City Code 10-106).

5. **Pools** - All pools with at least 24" of water must be completely enclosed with a 4' high fence and gate (City Code 12-500).

6. **Garage Sales** - You may have 6 or fewer garage sales per calendar year, and each sale is limited to four days or less (City Code 11-601).

Home Improvement Help

Even with broken windows, horrible paint colors and original toilets installed some 50 years ago, Valeri Welter knew she loved her soon-to-be Coon Rapids home from the moment she walked in. "I said...Oh my gosh! I love this house already."

That was back in December of 2011. Welter knew her new home was in need of renovation, but she could see the potential and was ready to take on the challenge. She purchased the vacant, foreclosed home at a very affordable price, and with 2600 square feet, she knew it was the perfect home for her. Moving from Ham Lake to Coon Rapids, she started to read the City newsletter and discovered the City of Coon Rapids offered loan options for home renovation.

Welter says, "I knew there were things in the home that needed to be fixed, but I just didn't seem to have a lot of extra money to fix them. I was going to school, and also working, but I thought I should take the time to look in to these programs being offered."



BEFORE - Valeri Welter's home had original wood siding, some of which was damaged and needed to be repaired.

Welter was able to qualify for the Zero Interest Home Rehabilitation Deferred Loan from the City of Coon Rapids, offered through a program administered by the HousingResource Center™. The loan allows low and moderate income residents to borrow up to \$24,999 which can be used for home improvements that meet minimum housing standards. The loans are funded through federal Community Development Block Grant dollars. No monthly payments are required and up to 50% of the loan may be forgiven.

With the loan, Welter was able to tackle a long list of repairs:

- Replaced bathroom window with glass block
- Replaced handrail at basement stairs
- Replaced roof on house and garage
- Replaced siding on house and garage
- Wrapped soffit, fascia, and door trim on house and garage with aluminum



AFTER - Welter's home with new roof, siding, soffit, fascia and trim.

- Replaced rotted/damaged windows in basement
- Replaced areas of ceramic tile tub surround where rotted/damaged
- Replaced flooring in main bath
- Miscellaneous wall repairs
- Miscellaneous plumbing repairs
- Replaced water heater
- Provided bath fan in main bath
- Miscellaneous electrical work
- Installed smoke detectors and CO2 detectors

"This program is worth it! You have this great opportunity and everyone is so nice and helpful to work with. Yes, there is paperwork involved and that takes a bit of time, but it's worth the time! I'm grateful for the program," says Welter.

If you are interested in learning more about the Zero Interest Home Rehabilitation Deferred Loan, contact the HousingResource Center™ at 651-486-7401 or visit www.gmhchousing.org.



"On a scale of 1 to 10, I give the program a 15!"

Valeri Welter, Loan Recipient

Grant Program for Home Improvement Projects



Looking to remodel your home? Spring is the perfect time to think about home improvement projects and the Home for Generations II program, an incentive program that provides grant money to homeowners investing in large improvement projects.

The Home for Generations II program at a glance:

Maximum Grant: \$5,000

Minimum Project Amount: \$35,000

Rebate: 50% of building permit fees

Financing: 4.5% fixed up to \$50,000

Architectural Consultation: \$25 co-pay

Income Limit: None

Minimum Age of House: 20 years

Availability: First come, first served

Homeowners who increase the curb appeal of their homes will be awarded a larger grant than those who make only interior or maintenance improvements. Find out more today! Visit the City's website for more information, or contact Kristin at 763-767-6517 or by email at kdegrande@coonrapidsmn.gov.



A covered front porch with columns and brick is an architectural enhancement added to the front of this home.

Home Improvement Resources

Home Improvement Loans can help finance any remodeling project. Call the Center for Energy and Environment (CEE) to find out which loan program is best for you at 612-335-5884.

Down Payment Assistance is available through the Coon Rapids Mortgage Assistance Foundation. Contact Cheryl Bennett at the City of Coon Rapids at 763-767-6422, by email at cbennett@coonrapidsmn.gov or visit the City's website at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Coon Rapids Home Remodeling Tour

Sunday, May 15

Noon - 4 p.m.

Get great ideas for your home by visiting several recent remodels in the city! Come talk with homeowners and their contractors. Watch for a mailing with more information to arrive in your mailbox in early May! Questions? Call 763-767-6517.

GREEN EXPO CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Event Vendors

Energy

- Air Mechanical, Inc.
- Applied Energy Innovations
- Connexus Future
- Four Seasons Energy
- Efficient Roofing, Inc.
- Houle Insulation, Inc.
- RetroGreen Energy

Government and Educational Resources

- Anoka County Parks
- Anoka County Recycling
- Anoka Ramsey Community College
- Blaine Natural Resources Conservation Board
- Blaine Recycling Department
- Blaine Stormwater Management
- Coon Creek Watershed District
- Coon Rapids Forestry Department
- Coon Rapids Parks & Recreation Department
- Coon Rapids Recycling Center
- Coon Rapids Sustainability Commission

- Coon Rapids Utilities Division
- Green Code Knowledge LLC
- Minnesota Department of Health Indoor Air
- Minnesota GreenCorps (MPCA)

Health and Wellness

- BEMER USA
- Corrective Care Chiropractic
- Mother's Den Doula and Lactation Services
- Points of Serenity
- Real Food MN
- The Wellness Circle

Household Products

- Costco
- For Pet's Sake
- Healthy Home Technologies
- Norwex – Lisa Pelletier
- Raju's Arts
- Tupperware

Lifestyle and Recreation

- American Lung Association in MN
- Association for Nonsmokers
- Metro Transit



- Minnesota Interfaith Power & Light
- Minnesota Teardrop Trailer
- National Sports Center
- Transition North Twin Cities

Reuse and Recycling

- Goodwill
- Green Lights Recycling, Inc.
- Mr. Michael Recycles Bicycles, LLC
- Walters Recycling and Refuse

Yard and Garden

- Best Irrigation, Inc.
- Fabulous Flax Seeds
- Girl Scouts of MN and WI River Valleys
- Grazeland Farms
- Juice Plus+ and Tower Garden
- League of Women Voters – Anoka, Blaine & Coon Rapids Area
- Treasured Haven Farm
- University of Minnesota Extension Master Gardener Program

Gear Grab Accepted Gear

Hockey:

- Skates
- Hockey sticks
- Helmets
- Pads
- Breezers
- Shin guards
- Hockey gloves
- Goalie gear

Basketball:

- Shoes
- Balls

Soccer:

- Cleats
- Shin guards
- Balls

Baseball/Softball:

- Cleats
- Helmets
- Bats
- Pants
- Gloves
- Balls

Lacrosse:

- Cleats
- Helmets
- Pads
- Lacrosse sticks
- Balls

Miscellaneous:

- Golf clubs
- Golf shoes
- Tennis rackets
- Inline skates
- Figure skates

Not Accepted:

- Treadmills
- Elliptical machines
- Large gym equipment
- Skis
- Snowboards
- Bicycles

NOTE: We reserve the right to turn away items that do not meet our reuse criteria.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Hanson Boulevard Railroad Crossing Improvements

vehicles and drivers. Currently, BNSF "stages" trains between the Hanson Boulevard railroad crossing and the Crooked Lake Boulevard railroad crossing while waiting for clearance into nearby Northtown Yard. The practice of staging trains often blocks crossings for 6-8 minutes at a time (best case scenario) or up to 25+ minutes. The overpass would allow the railroad to stage trains under the bridge, which would eliminate the blocked crossings.

Future public information meetings will be held again later this year. For more information about the project, check Anoka County's website at www.anokacounty.us/2238/Hanson-Blvd-CSAH-78-Railway-Grade-Separa.

Improvements Planned for I-35W North

The Minnesota Department of Transportation is currently studying I-35W for the addition of MnPASS Express Lanes between Highway 36 and Lexington Avenue, in order to address capacity and mobility needs in the corridor. MnDOT is working to develop an overall design for I-35W that:

- Improves safety on the highway
- Increases the number of people that are moved along the highway during peak hours
- Provides reliable travel times for commuters during peak-drive times
- Optimizes and reuses existing roads and bridges (without needing to acquire homes and properties)

With 53,000 to 127,000 vehicles (and growing) using I-35W between Roseville and Blaine each day, travel time is becoming increasingly unreliable for peak period travelers. There is enough room in the middle of the existing road to add one lane in each direction, and MnDOT is analyzing the addition of MnPASS Express Lanes to provide a long-term benefit to the corridor.

What are MnPASS Express Lanes?

MnPASS Express Lanes provide a congestion-free travel option during peak-drive times, improve efficiency by moving more people through a corridor, provide better travel time reliability, and enhance transit usage, service and reliability. MnPASS Express Lanes are always free



for transit users, carpoolers (HOV 2+) and motorcycles. During peak-drive times, weekdays 6 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., motorists driving alone can choose to use the MnPASS lanes for a fee. Outside of peak-drive times, the MnPASS lanes

are free for everyone to use. Fees vary between \$0.25 and \$8, increasing when there is more congestion in the MnPASS lane. The fees keep traffic in the MnPASS lane moving at 50 to 55 mph.

What's next?

The preliminary engineering and environmental review will be completed by mid to late 2016. This work includes analyzing the need for spot improvements along the corridor and the need for noise walls along the freeway. While funding for a construction project is not yet identified, if funding becomes available construction could start as early as 2018.

Get Involved

The best way to stay updated is to visit www.mndot.gov/metro/projects/i35wroseville/, where you can learn more and sign up for project email updates. Keep an eye out for public meeting announcements in 2016, when MnDOT will be presenting information about proposed noise walls and the Environmental Assessment. Questions about the project or requests for additional information can be directed to Jerome Adams, at 651-234-7611 or Jerome.adams@state.mn.us.

Mercy Hospital Expansion

Mercy Hospital is going to be expanding its building and parking capacity at its current location. The three-year project will enhance critical care and surgical services at the facility. At the same time, renovations will also take place at the Unity Hospital campus, located in Fridley. Mental health and addiction services will move from Mercy Hospital to the Unity campus as part of the enhancement plans. Mercy and Unity Hospitals, owned by Allina Health, are working to enhance patient care by operating as a single system on two campuses. The renovation work at Unity Hospital is expected to be complete by early 2017, while the work at Mercy Hospital will be complete by late 2018.



Free Business Consultations

Are you a business owner in need of advice or are you looking to start a new business in Anoka County? The Open to Business program offers FREE consultations to anyone in Anoka County who is interested in starting a business or currently owns a business. Business Advisor Kathleen DuChene holds office hours at the Anoka County Government Center and other locations around Anoka County, including at Coon Rapids City Hall on **the third Tuesday of each month from 2 - 4:30 p.m.** Entrepreneurs interested in this service can also schedule an appointment by calling Kathleen at 763-438-7315. This service is perfect for those looking to:

- Open a business
- Discuss financing options
- Develop marketing strategies
- Understand the logistics of leasing or purchasing property
- And other business-related needs

More information about this program can be found at www.opentobusinessmn.org.

Northern Lights Express Passenger Rail

At a press conference in December 2015, officials with the Northern Lights Express (NLX) high-speed passenger rail project said the project's price tag has been nearly cut in half. The preliminary estimate of the total cost to implement NLX is between \$500 million to \$600 million. This includes stations, equipment and the necessary track improvements to ensure reliable, daily, high-speed intercity passenger rail service on this route while maintaining a high level of freight train performance. Previous cost estimates approached \$1 billion dollars.

A rail station for NLX is proposed in Coon Rapids, near the Foley Boulevard Park and Ride, which would make Coon Rapids home to two rail stations. The other rail station is located in Riverdale, the stop for the Northstar Commuter Rail Line.

The NLX passenger rail service will operate on 152 miles of an existing Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF) rail corridor between Minneapolis and Duluth on a schedule of four round trips per day at speeds up to 90 miles per hour with an end-to-end travel time of approximately 2 ½ hours.

Next Steps

The preliminary project and operating cost estimates will be updated and a final benefit-cost analysis will be prepared upon completion of cost sharing discussions with BNSF. MnDOT is also proceeding with the completion of preliminary engineering, Tier II Environmental Assessment, Financial Plan and Implementation Plan. By early 2017, the NLX Project will be shovel-ready, which means the project will be in position to move into final design and construction. Pending approval of federal funding, NLX Service could begin as early as 2020.

Project Impact

The construction and operation of NLX will create jobs and result in economic, safety and quality of life benefits by strengthening the region's intercity connections. NLX will foster economic growth by broadening the labor

market and connecting workers to a wider network of employers; increasing investments and station-related development; and enhancing local tourism. The increased economic activity generated by NLX is expected to increase income, sales and property tax revenues to state and local governments in amounts greater than the anticipated operating subsidy.

More than \$500 million will be realized over 40 years in benefits from safety, environmental sustainability, economic competitiveness, and station area development.

For more information visit: mndot.gov/nlx/.

Information in this article is from a December 16, 2015 press release written by the Minnesota Department of Transportation.



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Potential Port Riverwalk Housing Development

Boulevard and Avocet Street. The potential project will likely include market rate apartments, for-sale detached townhouses, and additional land reserved for retail. The apartments would be amenity-rich and more contemporary and different from other apartment offerings in the City. David Pattberg of Coon Rapids-based Centra Homes says "We are excited to work together on this new neighborhood in Coon Rapids."

The City's Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) had purchased the property, demolished older buildings, and cleaned up contamination several years ago. A previous development proposal for the site never materialized and the City's agreement with that developer was terminated in 2014. As details of a potential project are worked out, there will be several opportunities for input from the public. SuperAmerica recently opened a 3,500 square foot store on the corner of Egret and Coon Rapids Boulevards, which is also in the Port Riverwalk development area.

Other Business News

- **CPR™**, Cell Phone Repair has opened a new location at 12689 Riverdale Boulevard Northwest.

- **Edward Jones Investments** has opened a new location at 11650 Round Lake Boulevard, Suite #106.

- **Gordman's** (specialty retail) will be opening a new store at 3340 124th Ave. NW, #2 (in the old Rainbow Foods location in the Riverdale Crossing Shopping Center).

- **Jimmy John's** (sandwich shop) has opened a new location at 1835 Gateway Drive, Suite 102.

“There’s No Place Like HOM”

Before HOM Furniture was the multi-million dollar company that it is today, it came from humble beginnings, as a small wholesale and retail import gift business in the 1970’s. From there it transitioned to Waterbed Room in the 1980’s, and HOM Oak and Leather and Total Bedroom in the 90’s. The stores then combined to create HOM Furniture as a full-line furniture retailer in 1997, when HOM opened its headquarters in Coon Rapids, propelling the company.

“This store alone nearly doubled the total revenue of the whole company, that’s how successful it was,” Kyle Johansen, HOM’s Executive Director of Merchandising says.

The 90,000 sq. ft. building in Coon Rapids, off Highway 10, employs over 350 workers in Coon Rapids, and provides over 1000 jobs in all HOM store subsidiaries including Dock 86 and Gabberts.

Johansen’s uncle and father purchased the vacant land along Highway 10 where HOM Furniture now sits back in the late 90’s, a decision that ultimately made the company what it is today.

“The visibility, the accessibility, we feel like our number one marketing asset is that highway (Hwy 10). How much more can you ask for than for thousands of cars to drive by your store every day? That’s a huge draw. Everybody knows where our stores are,” says Johansen.

HOM Furniture is family-owned and operated and focuses on employee satisfaction and customer retention.

“One thing our family prides itself on is the service we offer to our customers. We always want to put the customer first and think about the customer. We want you to be a customer for life with us. We don’t want to sell you a sofa and never see you again. We know that we have to earn your business every single day,” Johansen says.



QUICK FACTS:

- Founded in 1997
- Headquarters and distribution center located in Coon Rapids
- Family-owned and operated business
- Raises money for several charities within the five-state area



Mary T. Inc. Celebrates 40 Years

Mary Tjosvold and her mother Margaret inherited a substantial piece of Coon Rapids property after Margaret’s mother, Rosa Camille, passed away in 1963 and left the land to her daughters.

Mary, who was in school at the time earning her Ph. D. in Education Administration, was then asked a question that would change the course of her career.

“My mom asked me what I thought we should do with the land. I said, we should do with the land what my grandmother did with her life and that is serve seniors and people with disabilities. And that’s what started it all,” says Tjosvold.

40 years later Mary T. Inc. is thriving with 53 locations in Minnesota, Wisconsin, Arizona and Maryland.

Tjosvold prides herself on customer service and the relationships she builds with the residents at Mary T. “I will tell you this, I know the names of almost every single resident that I serve with disabilities here in Minnesota, and most of them in Maryland,” Tjosvold says.

Mary T.’s 50-acre property provides housing and services to seniors, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations, including the homeless and

those with special needs. It is an ever-changing and ever-expanding business. The for-profit company employs over 800 people and boasts an annual revenue of about \$35 million. Mary T. has found success in the partnership she shares with the City of Coon Rapids.

“I think it’s a culture that we have, which is the idea that we are in it together,” Tjosvold says. “We are here to work with the City, so what does the City need, what does Mercy Hospital need, and what does the community need?”

In addition to Mary T., Tjosvold also owns Crooners, a Lounge and Supper Club in Fridley.



Featured from left to right: Colleen, Jason, Mary, Dean, Margaret and Lena Tjosvold.



QUICK FACTS:

- Founded in 1976
- Located at 11820 Xeon Blvd. NW, Coon Rapids
- Family name: Tjosvold
- Company mission: Mary T. Inc. is committed to providing quality, personalized services to creatively meet the unique and evolving needs of people. We invest our resources to best serve our customers, community, and the people of Mary T.

New Police Canine in Training

The Coon Rapids Police Department has a new addition to the police force. Ike, a Belgian Malinois, was donated to the department by former Coon Rapids Police canine handler, Mark McDonough, who retired in 2015.

Ike and his handler, Officer Interna Kim, are currently in training and will graduate in June. Local DARE students chose the name for the dog.

The canine teams help with a variety of police activities and investigations not only for Coon Rapids but throughout Anoka County.



Severe Weather Awareness Week

April 11-15, 2016

The perfect time to practice your severe weather emergency plan!

Outdoor warning sirens will sound:

Thursday, April 14 at 1:45 p.m. and 6:55 p.m.

For more information on severe weather preparedness, visit: www.ready.gov



Night to Unite Sign Up Now!

WHO: Coon Rapids Residents

WHAT: Night to Unite 2016

WHEN: Tuesday, August 2, 2016

WHERE: Your Neighborhood

WHY: Night to Unite is the annual event that brings neighbors together to get to know each other, talk about their neighborhoods and connect with members of the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments.

2016 THEME: Building COMMUNITY One NIGHT TO UNITE at a Time

2016 COLOR: TEAL

Registration is open now! Register in person at the Coon Rapids Police Department located at 11155 Robinson Drive NW, by calling 763-767-6481, or online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.

Follow the Coon Rapids Police Department

find us on [facebook](#)

follow us [twitter](#)

find us on [YouTube](#)

Crime Prevention Tips

- Leave outside lights on and trim overgrown shrubs near the house; criminals prefer to work where they are less likely to be seen.

- Install quality deadbolt lock sets.
- Use timers on lights/radios when going out of town, also have someone pick up mail/newspapers, put out the trash can, etc. Make it look like someone is home.

- Don't put the box for your new big screen TV out next to the trash, it advertises what's inside your home.

- Make sure your overhead garage door is closed, even if you are just in the backyard. It only takes a moment for something to disappear.

When People Knock on Your Door

- If a solicitor comes to your home, ask to see their solicitor's license. If they are legitimate, they will be licensed through the City and will be wearing proper identification including a City issued badge which must be worn at all times. They will also have an official City license (exclusions include newspaper and food delivery services). If you have any problems with a peddler/solicitor, please call 911.

Don't make it easy for criminals to take advantage of you!

Car Seat Clinics

Did you know four out of five car seats are installed incorrectly?

Get tips from professionally trained car seat technicians from the Coon Rapids Police and Fire Departments at one of the following car seat clinics:

April 21, May 11, June 8

Clinics take place from 4-7 p.m. This free service is available by appointment only to Coon Rapids residents through Safe Kids Anoka County. Schedule an appointment by contacting safekids@coonrapidsmn.gov or call 763-767-4680, ext. 680.

Clinics take place at the Coon Rapids Police Department, 11155 Robinson Drive.

Get to Know the Assistant Fire Chief Aaron Johnston

Aaron Johnston followed in his father's footsteps when he became a firefighter. His father, Guy Johnston, was a 33-year veteran of the Coon Rapids Fire Department before retiring in 2009.

"I grew up in the fire service. I am sitting in the same chair, same office, same phone number as my father," Johnston says.

Johnston has been a member of the Fire Department since 1994. He began his career as an on-call firefighter, worked his way up the ranks to fire inspector and fire captain before his promotion to assistant fire chief a year ago.

What do you hope to bring to the community of Coon Rapids?

"I hope to bring customer service. We are here to help the people with whatever they need, from a lift assist to a catastrophic injury, we are here for them, and we are always preparing for that. My goal is to make sure the firefighters are trained and ready to provide that service when it is needed. I am giving back to the community I grew up in."

What are your hobbies?

"I like to play golf and head to the cabin to hang out on the dock at my parents place. We like to camp and be out in nature. I'm also a member of the Fire Department curling team as well."

What is one of the most memorable stories of your career?

"I've delivered three kids. One in the front seat of a car, another in the front lawn and the third in the bathtub. I also remember the first person we saved that went into cardiac arrest. I remember those events; when someone is dead in front of you and you give them CPR or a different lifesaving maneuver to bring them back and then they are talking to you on the way to the hospital. Those are the big events in any firefighter's career, the births and the saves."

Tell us about your family.

"I've been married to my wife, Tina, for 20 years after we met in college at Bemidji State University (Go Beavers!). We have two sons, Ben (18) who will be heading out to college at the Rochester Institute of Technology in New York in the fall and Jake (15) who just got his driver's permit."



Recreational Fires

The fire department receives many questions related to recreational fires. Here's a helpful reminder of what is and what IS NOT allowed:

- Recreational fires are allowed without a permit.
- Recreational fires cannot exceed three feet in diameter.
- Flame height should be approximately three feet.
- Bonfires are not permitted.
- Only clean, dry wood can be used.
- No burning of leaves or other debris.
- Fire extinguishing supplies such as a hose, shovel and bucket must be ready at all times.
- Fires must be 25 feet from any structure.
- A responsible adult must be present at all times.
- Burning is allowed from 8 a.m. to midnight any day of the week, with a maximum burn of 6 hours.
- Please make sure the smoke from your fire is not going into your neighbor's home. If it is, please extinguish the fire.

Any police or fire personnel may withdraw permission for the fires due to climatic conditions, extreme dryness, nuisance problems or violations of the guidelines.

Fines and/or tickets may be issued for burning debris, construction materials, yard waste, etc. If you have questions about recreational fires, call 763-767-6429. Illegal fires should be reported to 911.

Safety Tips

- Do not throw hot ashes in trash cans! Ashes can remain hot for up to 7 days. Dispose of hot ashes properly by placing them in a metal container. When completely cool, the ashes can be thrown in the trash can.
- City Code does not allow the use of a grill on a balcony or patio in an apartment building.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector outside of every sleeping area and on every level of your home. Test the alarms every month and replace them every five years.



Outreach Service at the Coon Rapids Senior Center

Patty Marz, with the Anoka County Community Action Program (ACCAP), will now have office hours at the Coon Rapids Senior Center. Patty can connect seniors with resources in the community to help them remain in their own homes as long as possible. She helps clients find assistance for food support, housing, health care programs, energy assistance, or other questions regarding resources in the community. Stop in on the 2nd Tuesday of each month between 10 a.m. and noon, or contact Patty at 763-783-4741.



Minnesota Safety Council

Defensive Driving Courses

Drivers 55+ years of age with a valid driver's license can receive a 10% automobile insurance discount for three years by attending a MN Safety Council Defensive Driving Course. Anyone taking the course for the first time must attend an 8-hour session. Others may take a shorter, 4-hour refresher course every three years. Call for a reservation form. Registration and payment must be received 2 weeks prior to the class. Plan ahead! These classes fill up early. Call 763-767-6473 to register or to get a complete listing of 2013 classes.

4-Hour Refresher Course: \$20.00

Monday, May 168:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday, June 68:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 138:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 118:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Monday, July 255:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

8-Hour Course: \$22.00

Mondays, June 20 & 275:30 p.m.—9:30 p.m.

Please Note: Classes are also now offered online! Sign up at www.minnesotasafetycouncil.org

Chores & More

Are you a senior over 60 years of age? Do you need help with housekeeping, grocery shopping, seasonal outdoor chores, and minor home repairs? Perhaps Chores & More can help! We are also currently looking for independent contractors, and volunteer groups or individuals to assist with different projects for the seniors in Anoka County. Please call 763-783-4767 for more information.



LIVE 2B HEALTHY

Fitness Class

Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays
8:30-9:30 a.m.

First Session Free!

Improve flexibility and balance while increasing muscular endurance. Led by a certified instructor. Classes are \$35.00 per month, but there's no cost to "SilverSneakers" or "Silver and Fit" members. Now accepts most Blue Cross Blue Shield, Medical and Health Partner Plans. First session is free. Bring your insurance card to determine if you will get a discount in the future.

E-Book Help

You can get free eBooks from the Anoka County Library at anokacountylibrary.org. Sign up for a free, one-to-one, thirty minute afternoon appointment and learn how to download the books by calling the senior center. A representative from the Library will meet with you at the Coon Rapids Senior Center and show you how it works with your device (iPads, iPhones, Androids, Laptops and Kindle). Bring your device, your device ID and password and your library card and PIN (if you have one). First Tuesday of the month. Call 763-767-6473 for a reservation.



Parkinson's Support Group

Coon Rapids Senior Center

Thursday, April 14

1 - 2:30 p.m.

This month's topic:

Dementia and Parkinson's

Guest Speaker:

Okeanis Vaou, MD, Neurologist
Noran Neurological Clinic

Everyone welcome. Coffee provided.

No registration necessary.

Questions? Feel free to contact facilitator Milo Hartmann 763-755-2175.





Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448
763-755-4141
www.bunkerhillsgolf.com

golfTEC: 612-424-9251

Kendall's Tavern & Chophouse:
763-755-1234



Golf Patron Cards Now on Sale

Spring is here and Bunker Hills Golf Club is already open for the season! Why not enjoy wonderful benefits with a golf patron card, which are now on sale! Benefits include:

- A complimentary round of golf
- 18-hole rate reductions
- 9-hole rate reductions
- Executive course greens fee reduction
- Advance tee-times

To purchase a patron card, visit
www.bunkerhillsgolf.com

Nothing Beats that
New Restaurant Smell

Now Open at Bunker Hills Golf Club

KENDALL'S
TAVERN & CHOPHOUSE



Perfect for any occasion! From cheese curds and burgers, to steaks and pastas, all that you crave, whenever you crave it...find it at Kendall's Tavern & Chophouse.

www.kendallstc.com



Do you have a goal of improving your swing this year? Try private lessons with the pros at GolfTEC!

Call 612-424-9251 or visit
www.bunkerhillsgolf.com
for more information.



Coon Rapids Ice Center

11000 Crooked Lake Blvd.
763-951-7222
www.coonrapidsicecenter.com

Public Skating

Have fun skating on the indoor rink!

Spring Public Skating times:

Wednesdays & Fridays

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sundays

5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Admission is \$5.00 for adults, \$4.00 for students. Children ages 5 and under skate FREE with a paid admission. Skate rental and sharpening is also available.



Skating Stars Camp

Improve your skating skills with a 4-day ice skating camp! Includes on-ice time, dryland training, t-shirt and healthy snack options each day.

Perfect for beginners thru Free Skate 4 level skaters.

July 18 - 21

8 a.m. - Noon

Cost: \$149.00

Sign up online at www.coonrapidsicecenter.com



NEW Senior Skate for ages 55+

Get out and have some fun on the ice!
Coffee is fresh brewed starting at 8 a.m.

Wednesdays* • 8:40 a.m. - 9:40 a.m.

(No events on 7/20, 8/3, 8/10)

Fee: \$5

**Schedule subject to change for special events.*

Host Your Event at the Ice Center!

Did you know the Coon Rapids Ice Center has space to accommodate your next birthday party, meeting or other special event?

Find out more today! Contact Bill at 763-951-7219 or email bganser@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Ice Fantasy Skating Show

“Skating through Candyland!”

April 21-24

Watch fantastic skating talent as part of the 2016 Ice Fantasy skating show, “Skating through Candyland!” Several local skaters will perform to a variety of songs and don't miss the popular Father-Daughter performance.

World Competitors Kim Navarro and Brent Bommentre, will skate at the Friday and Saturday shows.

Tickets: \$8 adults, \$6 students and seniors (65+) and children 4 and under are FREE. Tickets can be purchased at the door.

*World Competitors
Kim Navarro and
Brent Bommentre*



SHOW TIMES:

April 21, 22, 23 • 6:30 p.m.

April 24 • 2 p.m.

New: The 2016 Parks and Recreation Brochure!

You should have received (or will be soon) a Park and Recreation brochure featuring upcoming summer programs, classes, events and more! NEW this year – sign up for classes online!



Fresh Food Frenzy

Grow your own food, eat fresh 365 days a year & save money!

Workshop series featuring local food enthusiast Marcia Baudino.

Your Yard - A Food Producing Paradise

Tuesday, May 3 • 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Using an average sized Coon Rapids lot, you can turn your yard into a food producing paradise! Learn how to fill your freezer with fresh, healthy meals to last all year.

Permanent Raised Beds the Permaculture Way

Tuesday, May 10 • 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Enjoy huge yields, almost no weeding and never till again! (No lumber or hammers needed.) Learn how to build, mulch, plant and maintain raised beds using Permaculture Principles.

Local Food for Dinner 365 Days a Year

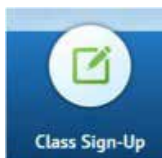
Tuesday, May 17 • 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wondering how to find and use more local food, or how Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) programs work? Learn practical tips in this workshop.

Location: Coon Rapids Civic Center Training Room
11155 Robinson Drive

Course fee: \$12 per session

See complete course descriptions, sign up and pay for these classes online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov. If you are not able to register online call 763-767-4689 to sign up. Walk-ins are also welcome.



Senior Tai Chi Classes

CLASS 1

Come learn and practice Tai Chi! We will use the eight Brocades to begin practice, then move to the flowing movements of the first set of the New China Synthetic 88 form. Other movements will be practiced as time permits.

Session 1 . . . Every Monday June 6 - July 18
(no class July 4)

Session 2 . . . Every Monday July 25 - August 29
Time 9 a.m.

CLASS 2

Come learn and practice the flowing movements of Tai Chi. We will use the Tai Chi for Health form developed by Dr. Paul Lam of Australia as our basic form, learning the warm-ups, form sequence and moves that he put together for his patients and anyone else who would like to begin learning Tai Chi. Supported by the Arthritis Foundation.

Session 1 . . . Every Monday June 6 - July 18
(no class July 4)

Session 2 . . . Every Monday July 25 - August 29
Time 10:15 a.m.

Location for all sessions: Coon Rapids Ice Center
Fee: \$45

Sign up online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



Active Kids Association of Sport's

AKA All Sports Camp

Choose full summer or individual sport weeks of your choice

Week 1 (June 13) Olympic Games &
Opening Ceremonies Week

Week 2 (June 20) Diamond Sports Week

Week 3 (June 27) Hockey Week

Week 4 (July 5) Swimming Week
*shortened 4 day Week

Week 5 (July 11) Ice Sports Week

Week 6 (July 18) Lacrosse & Soccer Week

Week 7 (July 25) Archery Outdoors Week

Week 8 (August 1) Bikes & Blades Week

Week 9 (August 8) Basketball & Football Week

Week 10 (August 15) Golf Week

Week 11 (August 22) Closing Ceremonies Week

Week 12 (August 29) Extra ASC Week

AKASport Camps are a great alternative to daycare (7 a.m. to 6 p.m.) and are the most active, social and physically engaging program around!

Fee: \$225-235 per week or \$2,200 for the entire summer.

Location: Coon Rapids Ice Center
(11000 Crooked Lake Boulevard)

For more information and easy online registration:
www.AKASPORT.org or call 651-447-2454.



Paddleboard 101

This on and off water instruction introduces participants to the basics of SUP (stand up paddleboard). Class includes equipment, launch technique and general safety.

June 13, 2016 • 5 p.m.

August 22, 2016 • 6:30 p.m.

Classes meet at the Crooked Lake public boat launch.

Fee: \$25 per class

Sign up online at
www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



Paddleboard Yoga

SUP (stand-up paddleboard) yoga is a unique workout where your mat is a paddleboard and your studio is the water. Challenge yourself and have fun! Paddleboard 101 or previous SUP experience is recommended. All equipment is provided.

June 20, July 18, August 29 • 6:30 p.m.

Classes meet at the Crooked Lake Park parking lot.

Fee: \$25.00 per class

Sign up online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



YOGA IN THE PARK

**June 20, 27, July 18,
August 8, 22, 29**
5 p.m.

Crooked Lake Park
13180 Crooked Lake Blvd.

Single Class Fee: \$8.00

Series of Classes: \$36.00

Sign up online at www.coonrapidsmn.gov.



"The Element" Teen Center

(grades 6-12)

2701 Northdale Blvd. (at Riverwind Park)

School Year Hours (Sept 14 – June 10)

Monday-Thursday: 3 p.m.- 6 p.m.

Friday: 6 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Come socialize, play games, watch movies and have fun with kids your age in a safe, supervised environment. FREE! Concessions available for purchase.

Join us for these special events:

July 1 Independence Day Picnic

July 2 Coon Rapids 4th of July Parade

July 15 Grand Slam Field Trip

August 2 Night to Unite (5-8 p.m.)

August 5 Andover Lanes Field Trip

August 26 End of Summer Party

Join our Facebook page for the latest updates and special announcements!



Free Dollars Into Sense Class

The University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County will present a free “Dollars into Sense” class on May 12 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at the Anoka County Human Services Center (1201 89th Ave., Blaine). This class will cover tracking expenses, putting together a spending plan, goal setting, credit, and where to get additional help/resources. To register, call University of Minnesota Extension, Anoka County at 763-755-1280 at least three days prior to the class.



SENIOR EXPO



Saturday, May 7

Lord of Life Church

14501 Nowthen Blvd.

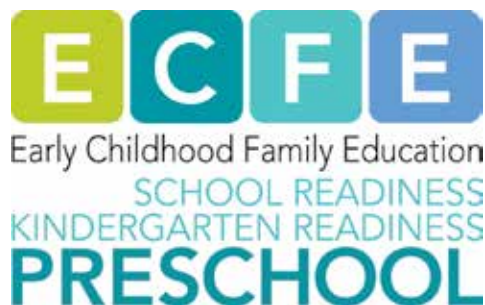
Ramsey, MN 55303

9 a.m. – noon

Information booths, blood pressure checks, entertainment and more!

Register for Preschool

Registrations are now being accepted for School Readiness Preschool and Kindergarten Readiness Preschool for the 2016-2017 school year. Classes are held September to June throughout the district. Children must be either three or four years old by September 1, 2016. Enrollment fees are based on income eligibility of families. Call 763 506-1500 for more information or to register.



Summer Theater Program for Kids

Northern Starz Children's Theatre is accepting registrations for the first-ever Student Directed Play Festival. Youth in grades 6-12 are invited to act, direct or be part of the tech crew. No experience necessary. Directors start classes with mentors in April. Actors attend class June 13-July 24 two nights a week (plus one Saturday rehearsal) culminating into a professionally judged festival weekend July 22-24. Northern Starz Children's Theatre is located in Ramsey. Students from Coon Rapids, Blaine, Andover, Brooklyn Park and other north metro communities participate in our programs. Visit www.northernstarz.org for more information.

Transformative Circle Takes Shape in Coon Rapids

In the fall of 2015, a group called “Coon Rapids Community Partners” held several meetings to discuss how the community could best meet the needs of its increasingly diverse population. From those meetings, the organization created a new name, “Transformative Circle.”

The mission of Transformative Circle: “To foster greater understanding and appreciation for our community, cultural differences and customs.”

In January, the group met with a speaker from the Nusrat Mosque who spoke about Islam and common misconceptions about Muslims. Transformative Circle members also attended “A Cup of Tea” hosted by the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community where they learned about “Humanity First,” a Muslim world-wide humanitarian organization.

Meetings take place the first Thursday of each month at the Coon Rapids YMCA located at 8950 Springbrook Drive. New members are always welcome.

Master Gardener Plant Sale Fundraiser

The University of Minnesota Extension - Anoka County Master Gardener Volunteers will host an annual fundraising plant sale on Tuesday, May 17 from 4 - 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, May 18, from 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Anoka Armory, 408 E. Main St., Anoka.

Featured plants this year include select specialty annuals such as sunny Coleus, Calibrachoa, Sweet Potato Vine, Sunpatiens, and many more. Other popular plants available include perennials for sun, perennials for shade, tomatoes, herbs, vegetables, daylilies, dahlias, Hostas and houseplants. It is recommended to come early, as some selections are limited. To learn more about the plant sale or other programs offered by Master Gardeners, call 763-755-1280 or visit www.anokamastergardeners.org.



Free Plant & Insect Diagnostic Clinics

The University of Minnesota Extension - Anoka County Master Gardener Volunteer Program offers FREE Plant and Insect Diagnostic Clinics for Anoka County residents. These clinics are designed to help homeowners identify problems and develop appropriate solutions for their landscapes by using research-based information. Clinics are held on Wednesday evenings at the Bunker Hills Activities Center from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. (please arrive by 7:30 p.m. at the latest), May 18 - August 31 (no clinic the week of July 4).

Multi-Unit Recycling Report Card

By Tanya Feldkamp – MN GreenCorps Member

While working for the City of Coon Rapids Recycling Division, my focus is to increase recycling rates in multi-unit dwellings. From October to December of last year, I visited every multi-unit building in the city, which included apartment buildings, some condos, and assisted-living/senior communities. With the observations I collected from these site visits and information from each building's hauler, I have evaluated every property's recycling program individually. With this work, I hope to assist the City in coming up with minimum standards for recycling at multi-unit properties, so that residents of these buildings have adequate access to recycling.

An ideal recycling and trash set-up for a building would have an enclosure that holds both a recycling and garbage dumpster. These two dumpsters would be of equal size with clear signage that differentiates the recycling from the garbage. Finally, the volume and amount of the containers should be enough, so that each unit has about one eighth of a cubic yard (22 gallons) every week for both trash and recycling.

As part of this project, every multi-unit building received a ranking based on criteria that included the number of recycling containers compared to garbage, weekly recycling capacity per unit, condition of garbage enclosures, and clarity of signage on containers and enclosures. The rankings are listed to your right.

The purpose of publishing all of these scores is to recognize the high-achieving properties that are putting forth extra effort to be environmentally conscious by having an effective recycling program. Individualized reports of each building's evaluation will be sent to property managers with recommendations, so that they can make improvements to provide better access to recycling; oftentimes buildings don't have enough recycling containers or they are located in inconvenient spots. The City would like to see higher recycling rates at multi-unit buildings, so hopefully, these evaluations will be a way to communicate those expectations to the management of these properties. Please contact me with any comments or questions at tfeldkamp@coonrapidsmn.gov.

Good

Realife Cooperative of Coon Rapids, 85%
Oxbowl Bend Apartments, 82%
Select Senior Living of Coon Rapids, 80%

Above Average

Margaret Place Senior Apartments, 76%
Redwood Terrace Apartments, 75%
Autumn Glen Senior Living, 74%
Summit Oaks Apartment Homes, 70%
Epiphany Pines Independent Senior Living, 70%
WFC Properties, 66%
Whispering Pines Apartments, 66%
Crest Oaks Apartments, 64%
Rolling Acres Apartments, 62%
Epiphany Senior Housing, 62%
Parkside Apartments, 60%

Average

Lofts of Sand Creek Townhomes, 58%
Pondale Apartments, 57%
Robinwood Apartments, 56%
Camelot Square Apartments, 56%
Pennant Homes, 56%
Loftus Center Apartments, 54%
Heritage Heights Apartments, 54%
Dakotah Apartments, 54%
Garden Oaks Apartments, 54%
Eldorado Oaks Apartments, 53%
Hidden Point/North Cape Townhomes, 52%
Edge of Egret, 51%
Oak Grove Apartments, 51%

Dublin Park Apartments, 51%
Heather Apartments, 50%
Linnet Circle Apartments, 50%
Linnet Circle Garden Apartments, 50%
Boulevard Villa, 50%
Wedgewood Park Apartments, 48%
Oakmont Apartments, 46%
Mississippi View, 44%
Drake Apartments, 43%
Woodland North Apartments, 42%
Lofts of Sand Creek Rentals, 40%
Eldorado Maples Apartments, 40%
Tralee Terrace Apartments, 40%

Below Average

Rapid Court Apartments, 38%
Coon Rapids University Townhomes, 36%
Grasslands Housing, 34%
Pine Point Apartments, 34%
Christensen Rentals, 32%
Parkview Estates, 32%
Galway Place Townhomes, 32%
Wellington Ridge Apartments, 32%
Northpointe Apartments, 31%
Colonial Estates, 28%

Needs Improvement

Banberry Estates, 16%
Pinewood Apartments, 14%
McQuay Apartments, 10%
Homestead at Coon Rapids, 10%
Winchester Place Apartments, 8%

Organics Recycling

Reduce your trash and recycle your food waste! The Coon Rapids Recycling Center accepts kitchen scraps, discarded leftovers, spoiled food and some paper products as part of its Organic Food Waste Recycling program. Organics material **MUST** be brought to the Recycling



Center in the approved organic blue bags available at the recycling center (small fee applies for bags). If you would like to participate in this program, you must sign up with the Recycling Coordinator, Colleen

Sinclair by calling 763-767-6485. Open to Coon Rapids residents only.

Walters Recycling and Refuse Curbside Organics Program

Walters Recycling and Refuse recently started the Blue Bag Organics curbside program for residents who live in the city of Coon Rapids*. This program composts food waste and food-soiled paper. The process is easy: Walters' customers discard food waste and food-soiled paper into special Blue Bag Organics BPI-certified bags. The blue bags are then placed in regular garbage carts for curb-side pickup. Walters' customers can contact the company if they are interested in participating.

*You must be a residential customer of Walters Recycling and Refuse in order to participate in the pilot program.

Organics Recycling Available at Coon Rapids Ice Center and Bunker Hills Golf Club

Both the Coon Rapids Ice Center and Bunker Hills Golf Club have implemented organics recycling at the facilities. At the Coon Rapids Ice Center, new compostable containers are being used for the food service. Customers



are also asked to throw away their leftover organics food and paper waste in special containers. At Bunker Hills Golf Club, the restaurant operations are utilizing the organics recycling program for kitchen food waste, customer food waste, napkins and other paper products.



Coon Rapids Recycling Center

1831 – 111th Avenue, Coon Rapids, MN 55433

763-767-6485

Seasonal Hours

April-September: Tuesday and Thursday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

October-March: Tuesday - Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.



Family fun for everyone! The Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation and the City of Coon Rapids invite you to "Movie in the Park."

Friday, May 27, 8:30 p.m.

Movie: Inside Out

Location: Coon Rapids Soccer Complex
1705 111th Ave.

Saturday, September 17, 7:30 p.m.

Movie: Minions

Location: To be determined. Will be posted on City website in August.

Family activities begin two hours prior to the movie. Activities include bouncers, balloon art and face painting. Fees apply. Concessions are also available for purchase. Bring a blanket and enjoy these FREE movies.

Summer Concerts

The Coon Rapids Arts Commission and the Coon Rapids Community Strength Foundation are proud to present the Thursday Nites LIVE! Concert Series this summer at the Coon Rapids Dam. Come out and enjoy an evening of FREE entertainment featuring the following performers:

June 9. T.C. Cats

June 16. The Naked Cowboys

June 23. Centennial Community Band

July 7 Holy Rocka Rollaz

July 14 Hitchville

July 21 Sam Kuusisto

July 28 New Riverside Ramblers

August 4. Gravel Roads

August 11. . . . Buddy and the Boys

The concerts take place at 7 p.m. at the performance pavilion, rain or shine. Bring a lawn chair or a blanket. Anoka County Parks waives the \$5.00 parking fee for the evening. Food is also available for purchase. The Coon Rapids Dam is located at 9750 Egret Blvd.

Green Expo

Details on page 1



2016 Tree Sale

Details on page 3



Public Works Open House

Details on page 3

Rabies Vaccination Clinic

Details on page 3

Summer in the City Meetings

Details on page 4

Home Remodeling Tour

Details on page 9

Ice Fantasy Show

Details on page 16



Service Directory

Police and Fire: 911

City Center:

763-755-2880

Assessing:

763-767-6446

Building Inspections:

763-767-6476

Bunker Hills Golf Club:

763-755-4141

CTN-Coon Rapids:

(Cable TV Dept.)

763-767-6525

Civic Center:

763-767-6522

Property Maintenance:

763-767-6470

Coon Rapids Ice Center:

763-951-7222

Engineering Department:

763-767-6465

Fire Administration:

763-767-6429

Planning and Zoning:

763-767-6430

Police Administration:

763-767-6481

Public Works:

763-767-6462

Senior Services:

763-767-6473

Utility Billing:

763-767-6438

Fax:

763-767-6491

General questions:

mail@coonrapidsmn.gov

Newsletter comments & information:

Stephanie Ring

Communications & Mktg Coordinator

763-767-6582

sring@coonrapidsmn.gov

This is the official newsletter of the City of Coon Rapids which is distributed to all homes and businesses in the city. This newsletter is printed on recycled paper containing at least 30% post-consumer paper fibers using soy-based ink. (Circulation 26,019)

